



October 12, 2020

Hon. Bill de Blasio
Mayor of New York City
New York City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Richard Carranza
Chancellor, NYC Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Corey Johnson
Speaker, New York City Council
250 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Mark Treyger
Councilmember
Chair, Committee on Education
250 Broadway, Suite 1785
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio, Chancellor Carranza, Speaker Johnson, and Councilmember Treyger,

Enclosed please find a Statement and Resolution approved by Downtown Independent Democrats on September 23, 2020 *Support of Extending Priority Admissions for Middle and High Schools to Students from Both Community School Districts 1 and 2.*

We ask the Mayor and the Chancellor to Council to immediately grant all students who live in Community School District 1 the same priority for admissions into Community School District 2 middle and high schools as those received by students who live in District 2 and vice versa.

Sincerely,

Richard Corman
President, Downtown Independent Democrats

Enclosure

cc: Hon. Chuck Schumer, U.S. Senator
Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand, U.S. Senator



cc continued:

Hon. Carolyn Maloney, U.S. Representative
Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler, U.S. Representative
Hon. Nydia Velázquez, U.S. Representative
Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo, NY State Governor
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator
Hon. Brian Kavanagh, NY State Senator
Hon. Harvey Epstein, NY State Senator
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, NY State Assembly Member
Hon. Yuh-Line Niou, NY State Assembly Member
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, NYC Comptroller
Hon. Jumaane Williams, NYC Public Advocate
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Margaret Chin, NYC Council Member
Hon. Carlina Rivera, NYC Council Member



middle and high school due to the application of in-district admissions priority;

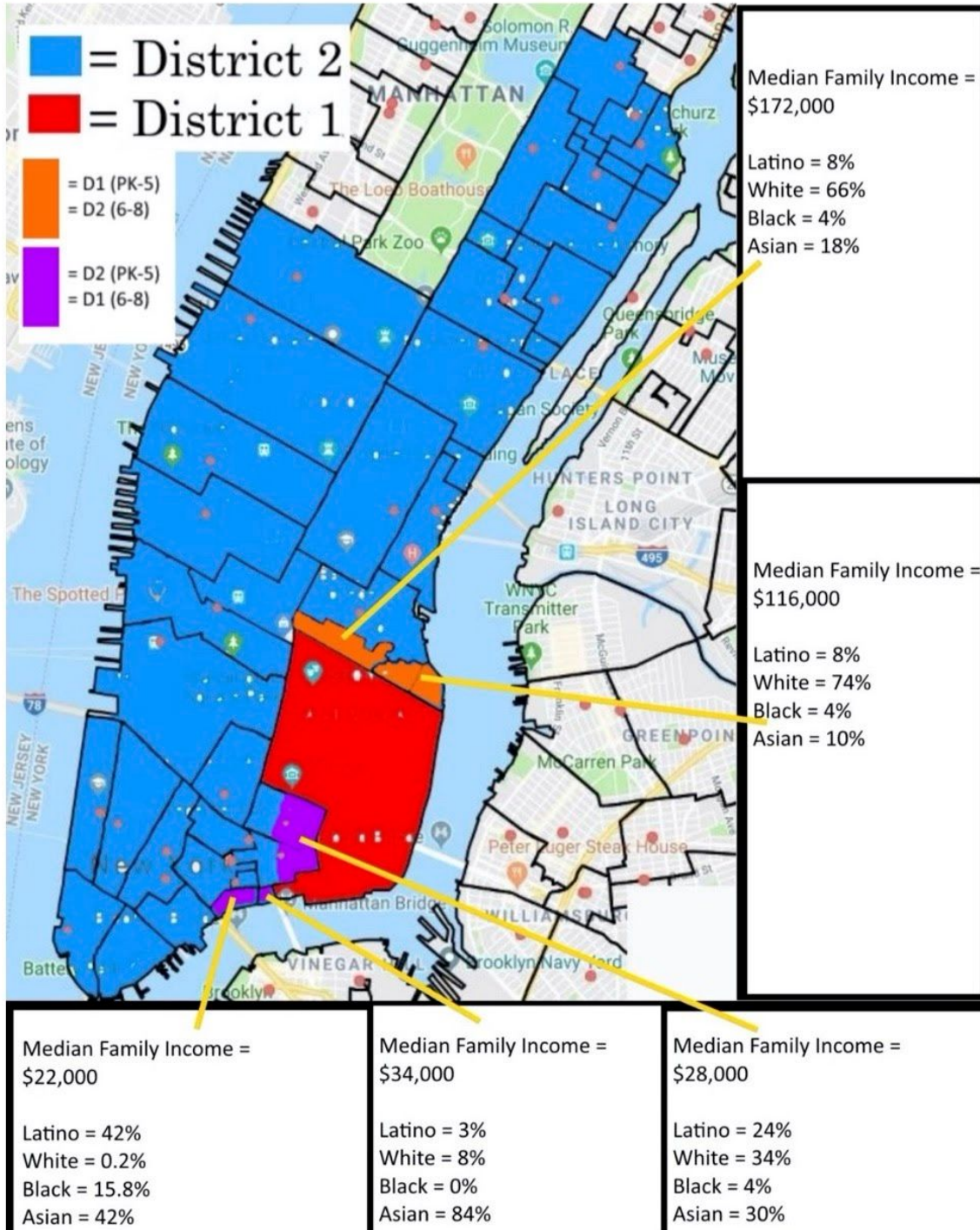
- a. Students of District 1, a much smaller adjoining district² to District 2, do not have access to schools in the larger District 2 and do not have priority in admission;
 - b. District 2's middle schools and high schools are in high demand and should be available for students and residents of District 1;³
7. The maintenance and support of District 1/District 2 segregation for middle and high school is emphasized by the decision to allow some of District 1's higher income students, who live in the northernmost portion of the district, to switch to District 2 for middle and high school, while some of District 2's poorest students - who are overwhelmingly students of color - are switched to District 1 for middle and high school, thereby keeping them out of District 2's middle and high school due to in-district priority;
8. Using school district lines to keep poorer students and students of color out of District 2's middle, and high schools, and racially isolated in District 1 schools, even if unintentional, is antithetical to the DID's commitment to racial and economic justice; and,
9. DID wishes to be a change agent for tearing down racism and classism in our city and its schools, and integrating its student body, and wishes to do so in a manner that is swift, deliberate, and positive while maintaining rigorous, challenging, and inspiring academics;

Therefore be it resolved that Downtown Independent Democrats calls on the City of New York, Mayor Bill de Blasio, and New York City School Chancellor Richard Carranza to immediately grant all students who live in Community School District 1 the same priority for admissions into Community School District 2 middle and high schools as those received by students who live in District 2 and vice versa.

² In the 2018-2019 school year, District 1 (D1) and District 2 (D2) enrolled 35,468 students in elementary and middle schools -- 6,948 (20%) in D1 vs. 28,520 (80%) in D2. Data is from the 2018-2019 NYC DOE Demographic Snapshot, <https://infohub.nyced.org/reports/school-quality/information-and-data-overview>. See Table 1.

³ District 2 (D2) students and residents have priority for 19 middle schools and five high schools -- Baruch College Campus (98% of offers to D2 students or residents), Eleanor Roosevelt High School (100% of offers to D2 students or residents), NYC Lab School for Collaborative Studies (98% of offers to D2 students or residents), NYC Museum School (62% of offers to D2 students or residents) and Millennium High School, which gives priority to students who live or attend school south of Houston Street (85% of offers went to these students.) High school admissions data from the 2021 NYC High School and Specialized Admission Guide, NYC Department of Education, <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/2021-high-school-and-specialized-high-schools-admissions-guide---guide-to-the-shsat>.

Map A: District 1 and District 2 Boundaries



Map B: District 1 Overlap with NYCHA Developments

NYC OpenData

Map of NYCHA Developments
Based on [Map of NYCHA Developments](#)



(Compare above with District 1 lines, which are plainly drawn to capture public housing)

* The differences shown here are understated because they reflect the demographics of District 1's elementary school borders. For middle and high school, whiter and wealthier sections of District 1 are moved into District 2, and less white and poorer sections of District 2 are moved into District 1.

Table 1: District 1 vs. District 2 Enrollment and Demographics for Elementary and Middle Schools Under CECD1 and CECD2

2018-19	District 1	District 2	D1 vs. D2 Difference
Total Enrollment	6,948	28,520	35,468
% of Total	20%	80%	100%
Asian	16%	27%	- 11%
Black	16%	7%	+ 9%
Latino	50%	17%	+ 33%
White	15%	43%	- 28%
Poverty	71%	33%	+ 38%

Source: NYC Dept. of Education. CEC District 1 schools directory, <http://www.district1nyc.com/d1-schools-directory.html>, which excludes NEST+m, a citywide G&T school. CEC District 2 schools directory at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nR85Cl_VJGZvTS#MV7wAtYRGd1C_t5_b/view.

Map C: District 1 Nearly Entirely Redlined Based on Home Owners' Loan Corp. Risk Map, 1935-40

